

**JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI**  
COMMISSIONER  
16<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



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**COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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September 14, 2018

Ms. Courtney Avery  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**RECEIVED**

SEP 26 2018

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Support for project 17-029, DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis

Dear Ms. Avery:

I represent a large swath of the western suburbs in Cook County, including the Village of Melrose Park. As such, I urge you to approve the Certificate of Need for DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis (project 17-029) to fill a healthcare need for hundreds of people in my district.

Capacity to treat dialysis patients in the Melrose Park area is projected to be strained in the coming months by having more than 80% of the dialysis appointments filled; those who require this life sustaining treatment will be forced to choose times that are largely inconvenient or travel further from their home if no action is taken to expand.

Approximately 26 million Americans already have some evidence of chronic kidney disease and are at risk of developing kidney failure. Another 20 million are at increased risk for developing kidney disease, and obesity is a leading cause. According to 2014 data, 27% of adults in Cook County were obese. The county has high rates of chronic disease as well, with chronic disease contributing to nearly 7 in 10 deaths and more than 34,500 hospitalizations in 2013.

I am pleased that DaVita consistently ranks first in outcomes as scored by the federal government in a rating system aimed at improving the quality of care provided to Medicare patients. DaVita also holds the highest total performance score among all large dialysis organizations.

I urge you to vote yes on DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Tobolski".

Jeffrey R. Tobolski  
Cook County Commissioner  
16<sup>th</sup> District